

Message Text

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60

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 AF-10

OMB-01 DRC-01 /115 W

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O P 112225Z OCT 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3957

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3043

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS EG IS

SUBJECT: REPORT OF EGYPTIAN POSITION AT SUEZ FRONT

1. NEWSWEEK EDITOR DE BORCHGRAVE HAS GIVEN US THE FOLLOWING REPORT. HE WAS TAKEN WITH SIX OTHER JOURNALISTS TO SUEZ SECTOR OF EGYPTIAN FRONT TODAY, OCTOBER 10 AND SPENT FOUR HOURS ON EAST BANK OF CANAL.

2. FRONT IN SUEZ SECTOR AT 1200 LOCAL TIME WAS APPROXIMATELY 20 KILOMETERS EAST OF CANAL. MUCH EQUIPMENT AND MANY PERSONNEL CARRIERS WERE CONTINUING TO MOVE ACROSS SINGLE PONTOON BRIDGE IN VICINITY, AND FRONT ITSELF WAS APPARENTLY MOVING SLOWLY IN EASTERLY DIRECTION.

3. WHEN DE BORCHGRAVE ARRIVED ISRAELIS WERE ATTACKING LEAD ARMOR VEHICLES AND CONVOYS IMMEDIATELY BEHIND FRONT WITH ELEMENTS OF TWO PHANTOM AIRCRAFT AT INTERVALS OF 20 MINUTES. WHEN HE DEPARTED, INTERVALS HAD DECREASED TO TEN MINUTES. TO ALL APPEARANCES, ATTACKS WERE INEFFECTIVE. PHANTOMS WOULD ARRIVE,
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DELIVER ORDANANCE AT ABOVE 2000 FEET, THEN IMMEDIATELY

DEPART AREA. EGYPTIANS RESPONDED TO ATTACKS WITH AAA (AS DESCRIBED, PROBABLY ZSU 57/2'S), BUT WITHOUT SAMS. NO SAMS WERE VISIBLE, AND FRONT HAD APPARENTLY ADVANCED FAR BEYOND RANGE OF SAM BELT ON WESTERN BANK OF CANAL.

4. DE BORCHGRAVE'S IMPRESSION WAS ONE OF SLOW BUT ORDERLY AND UNINTERRUPTED ADVANCE. TROOP MORALE APPEARED HIGH BUT DISCIPLINED. AT ONE POINT, PONTOON BRIDGE WHICH HE WAS CROSSING CAME UNDER ARTILLERY FIRE, WHICH EGYPTIAN TROOPS IGNORED; ONLY JOURNALISTS DUCKED. HE SAW NO WOUNDED, AND ONLY TWO KNOCKED OUT ISRAELI CENTURIONS.

5. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST EYE-WITNESS REPORT OF BATTLE AREA WE HAVE RECEIVED. WE BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE CHECKED CAREFULLY AGAINST OTHER AVAILABLE INFORMATION.
SMITH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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30 JUN 2005

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